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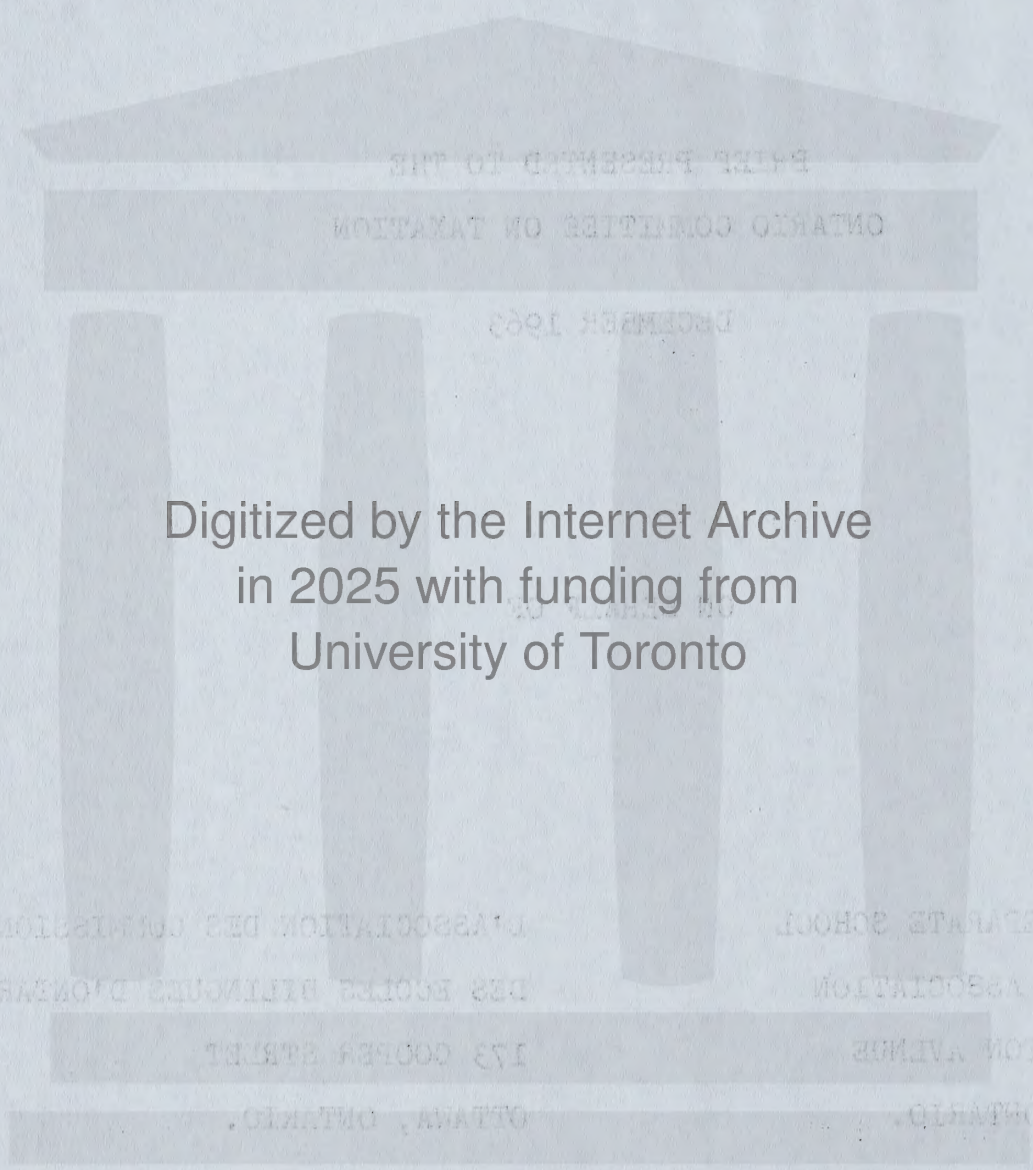
BRIEF PRESENTED TO THE
ONTARIO COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

DECEMBER 1963

ON BEHALF OF

ONTARIO SEPARATE SCHOOL
TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION
102 EGLINTON AVENUE
TORONTO, ONTARIO.

L'ASSOCIATION DES COMMISSIONS
DES ECOLES BILINGUES D'ONTARIO
173 COOPER STREET
OTTAWA, ONTARIO.



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The Ontario Separate School Trustees' Association and L'Association des Commissions des Ecoles Bilingues d'Ontario appreciate the opportunity to present to your Commission an outline of the financial problems which face trustees of Ontario's Catholic public schools, (commonly known as Roman Catholic Separate Schools of Ontario) in providing adequate revenue from the sources now available, to maintain and extend the educational system over which they have been delegated jurisdiction by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.

It is not our intention to review the past history of Ontario's Separate School System in this Brief.

The 743 Boards represented by the two associations sponsoring the Brief, and representing a part of the Provinces public system of education are most seriously concerned with the rising costs of providing even the minimum standards of education required by the Department of Education.

Both associations wholeheartedly endorse the standards set by the Department. Both associations face the dilemma of providing for this standard from the sources of revenue available to them at this time.

Like all other public school authorities our associations are faced with abnormal expanding enrollment, higher salaries, increased land costs and substantial increases in building costs.

The rapidly accelerating rate of changes in the industrial and commercial community of the Province places new responsibilities before all educational authorities. Educational facilities are being expanded and must continue to expand at an unprecedented rate.

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The rapidly accelerating rate of changes in the industrial and commercial community of the Province places new responsibilities before all educational authorities. Educational facilities are being expanded and must continue to expand at an unprecedented rate.

It is our belief that taxation at the municipal level and based solely on real estate has reached saturation. Increasing demands for other municipal services, especially in the larger urban centres cause serious concern to all educational authorities who must impose taxes on top of increasing municipal requirements for tax dollars.

Separate school boards in addition to the taxing problem common to all boards have two other serious problems. No method has yet been implemented to provide for a just and equitable distribution of the educational portion of taxes levied on business and industrial real estate. The educational portion of taxes levied on utilities, publicly owned corporations, mining companies, and the communications industry cannot be shared with separate schools for want of a workable formula.

It is an accepted principle that every child within our Province has a right to equal educational opportunity.

Taxation at the local level, even when combined with legislative grants does not in fact provide equality of opportunity.

Some new source of revenue must be found by school authorities in addition to the now unrealistic tax on personal and corporate real estate.

In Metropolitan Toronto alone one of our member boards faces the enormous responsibility of more than doubling its' facilities and its' staff of teachers by 1975.

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to be provided. It is our view that the present rate when combined with other municipal taxes has become prohibitive. School enrollment as far as separate schools are concerned is increasing at a rate greater than new assessable personal real estate. The future indicates an even wider unfavourable gap in these two factors.

The standard of education is imposed on school boards by the Department of Education and by society. The increasing financial burden is due to the inescapable rise in costs. To justly provide equal opportunity there must be an equal bearable cost and where necessary, supplementary finances must be made available to school boards.

The ever increasing use of automated production processes and the constantly improving computing device place new and challenging obligations before all who are entrusted with the preparation of youth for a useful and happy life in our Province.

We are convinced that the cost of providing adequate education at all levels will demand enormous amounts of new revenue. We are convinced that the existing formula of taxes on real estate cannot provide this revenue without undue hardship. Government grants can provide sufficient revenue only if new sources of revenue are available to our Provincial Government.

It may well be that Federal funds may have to be requested for distribution through the Provinces to school boards.

Whatever the outcome of the considerations of your honoured commission one fact will remain: our

educational institutions provide the most stable bridge into the future. It is apparent that the changing complex of business, industry, welfare and cultural institutions will make new demands on our schools.

Our two associations are anxious to play a full part in this major social obligation. We ask your help in finding new sources of revenue so that we may carry on in keeping with the demands of our changing society.

In Ontario's elementary schools the objective must be to couple equal educational opportunity with an equal tax burden on each tax payer, and if need be to provide supplementary finances to guarantee these equalities.